

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-18 are allowable.

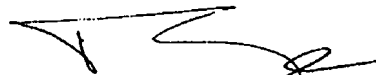
Applicants affirm the election of claims 1-5 and 13-18. Withdrawn claims 6-12 and 19-27 have been canceled.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

In response, claims 1-5 have been canceled. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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